



---

**Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention****Report of the eleventh session of the Committee for the  
Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in  
Bonn from 15 to 19 April 2013**

## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Opening of the session .....	1–9	3
A. Opening statements.....	1–6	3
B. General statements.....	7–8	3
C. Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes .....	9	3
II. Organizational matters .....	10–19	4
A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.....	10–11	4
B. Appointment of a Rapporteur of the Committee.....	12	5
C. Informal consultations .....	13	5
D. Attendance .....	14–17	5
E. Documentation.....	18–19	7
III. Conclusions and recommendations .....	20–143	8
A. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted impact indicators .....	22–36	8
B. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted performance indicators and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy .....	37–71	10

C.	Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, including strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy and the outcomes of the open dialogue session .....	72–106	12
D.	Consideration of best practices .....	107–114	15
E.	Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, including the input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy .....	115–126	16
F.	Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies .....	127–143	17
IV.	Actions taken by the Committee on agenda items 11 and 12 .....	144	18
V.	Conclusion of the session .....	145–151	19
A.	Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including conclusions and recommendations .....	145–147	19
B.	Closure of the session .....	148–151	19
 Annex			
	Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its eleventh session .....		20

## **I. Opening of the session**

### **A. Opening statements**

1. On 15 April 2013, the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), Ms. Mary Rowen, Senior Biodiversity Policy Advisor at the United States Agency for International Development, opened the eleventh session of the Committee and made a statement.
2. The Head of Division, Rural Development and Food Security, Mr. Stefan Schmitz, made welcoming remarks on behalf of the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, H.E. Mr. Dirk Niebel.
3. The Director-General of the International Affairs Bureau of the Korea Forest Services, Mr. Kwang-Su Ryu, made a statement on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties, Dr. Don Koo Lee, former Minister of the Korean Forest Service of the Republic of Korea.
4. The Mayor of the City of Bonn, H. E. Mr. Jürgen Nimptsch, addressed the Committee.
5. A statement was made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
6. The Honourable Deputy Minister for Environment and Tourism of Namibia, Mr. Pohamna Shifeta, also addressed the meeting.

### **B. General statements**

7. Statements were made by the representatives of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and its member states), Burkina Faso (on behalf of the Group of African States), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia), Belarus (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe) and H. E. Mr. Gabriel Quijandria Acosta, Vice Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of the Environment of Peru (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States).
8. A statement was made by the representative of the Conseil des Organisations Non Gouvernementales d'Appui au Développement (CONGAD) (on behalf of the civil society organizations).

### **C. Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes**

9. Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes on matters that were before the Committee were held from 12 to 13 April 2013.

## II. Organizational matters

### A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

10. At its first meeting, on 15 April 2013, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Appointment of a Rapporteur for the Committee.
3. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted performance indicators:
  - (a) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, subregional and regional entities, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as from the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 1 of The Strategy;
  - (b) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, subregional and regional entities, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as from the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 2 of The Strategy;
  - (c) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, subregional and regional entities, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as from the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 3 of The Strategy;
  - (d) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, subregional and regional entities, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 4 of The Strategy.
4. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted impact indicators:
  - (a) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected country Parties on strategic objective 1 of The Strategy;
  - (b) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected country Parties on strategic objective 2 of The Strategy;
  - (c) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected country Parties on strategic objective 3 of The Strategy.
5. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention:
  - (a) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, subregional and regional entities, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as from the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on strategic objective 4 of The Strategy;

- (b) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, subregional and regional entities, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as from the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 5 of The Strategy;
  - (c) Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention.
6. Assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy.
  7. Consideration of best practices.
  8. Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.
  9. Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on how best to measure progress made with regard to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategy: progress made in refining the impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.
  10. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies.
  11. Progress made in the implementation of decision 6/COP.10.
  12. Review of information regarding the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy.
  13. Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention: open dialogue session.
  14. Adoption of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations.
11. Also at the first meeting, the Committee approved the organization of work for the session, as contained in annex II of document ICCD/CRIC(11)/1.

## **B. Appointment of a Rapporteur of the Committee**

12. Also at its first meeting, on 15 April, the Committee appointed the Vice-Chair, Mr. Luis Estuardo Rios Gonzalez (Guatemala), as Rapporteur of its eleventh and twelfth sessions.

## **C. Informal consultations**

13. Informal consultations took place regularly during the session under the guidance of the Chair and the Rapporteur of the CRIC.

## **D. Attendance**

14. The representatives of the following 122 Parties to the UNCCD attended the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (see ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.7/Rev.1):

Algeria	Dominican Republic	Lebanon
Angola	Ecuador	Lesotho
Argentina	Egypt	Liberia
Armenia	Equatorial Guinea	Libya
Austria	Eritrea	Lithuania
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Madagascar
Bangladesh	European Union	Malawi
Barbados	Finland	Malaysia
Belarus	France	Mali
Belgium	Gabon	Marshall Islands
Benin	Gambia	Mauritania
Buthan	Georgia	Mexico
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Botswana	Ghana	Mongolia
Brazil	Guatemala	Morocco
Bulgaria	Guinea	Mozambique
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Myanmar
Burundi	Guyana	Namibia
Cambodia	Honduras	Nauru
Cameroon	Hungary	Nepal
Cape Verde	India	Netherlands
Chad	Indonesia	Niger
Chile	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Nigeria
China	Ireland	Norway
Colombia	Israel	Pakistan
Congo	Italy	Peru
Cook Islands	Jamaica	Panama
Costa Rica	Japan	Philippines
Côte d'Ivoire	Jordan	Portugal
Cuba	Kenya	Republic of Korea
Czech Republic	Kyrgystan	Republic of Moldova
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Samoa
Dominica	Latvia	Sao Tome and Principe

---

Senegal	The former	United States of
South Africa	Yugoslav Republic	America
Sri Lanka	of Macedonia	Uzbekistan
Swaziland	Togo	Venezuela
Sweden	Tunisia	(Bolivarian Republic
Switzerland	Turkey	of)
Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Viet Nam
Thailand	Uganda	Yemen
	Ukraine	Zambia
	United Republic of	Zimbabwe
	Tanzania	

15. The session was also attended by observers from two other countries.
16. The following United Nations organizations, offices and specialized agencies were also represented:
- African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
  - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
  - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
  - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
  - Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - United Nations University (UNU)
  - World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
17. The session was also attended by nine intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and 20 civil society organizations (CSOs), including non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

## **E. Documentation**

18. The documentation submitted for the consideration of the Committee is listed in the annex.
19. Document ICCD/CRIC(11)/19/Add.1 contains a summary of the deliberations of Parties and observers at the eleventh session of the CRIC (CRIC 11), as well as a compilation of the draft recommendations contained in the official documentation submitted to the Committee for consideration.<sup>1</sup> These recommendations derive from the synthesis and preliminary analysis of information contained in the reports submitted by

---

<sup>1</sup> ICCD/CRIC(11)/2 to ICCD/CRIC(11)/7, ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6, ICCD/CRIC(11)/9 to ICCD/CRIC(11)/13 and Add.1, ICCD/CRIC(11)/14, ICCD/CRIC(11)/15 and ICCD/CRIC(11)/17.

Parties and other reporting entities by 30 October 2012, and are compiled and included in an addendum following a specific request made by Parties at CRIC 11. As such, document ICCD/CRIC(11)/19/Add.1 complements the conclusions and recommendations contained in chapter III of this document and is an integral part of the same.

### **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

20. According to decision 11/COP.9, containing the Terms of Reference of the CRIC, the Committee is to produce a final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention. With regard to the nature of the review process, the same decision provides that the review of implementation shall be an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise in an interactive format, which will identify successes, obstacles and difficulties with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention.

21. The conclusions and recommendations listed in this report are therefore a summary compilation of the ideas, suggestions and proposals offered by participants in CRIC 11 to further the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. This report lists potential action that could be undertaken by Parties and other stakeholders,<sup>2</sup> including the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention, after consideration and appropriate decisions by the COP, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention.

#### **A. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted impact indicators**

##### **Strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, including input from the CST on the review and assessment of scientific information pertaining to the strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

22. Noting that the identification of affected areas is critical to the implementation of the UNCCD, some Parties recommended that the ad hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts (AGTE) on Impact Indicator Refinement consider proposing a simpler methodology for the delineation of affected areas. Some other Parties noted that methodologies need to be flexible to fit locally-specific issues.

23. Considering that all drylands are either affected or threatened by desertification, some Parties proposed that the delineation of affected areas be based on the definition of drylands as contained in the Convention. However, noting that the UNCCD is the only global instrument addressing the issue of land degradation, some other Parties recommended looking beyond the drylands when developing a methodology to delineate affected areas.

24. Some Parties recommended that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) should increase efforts towards harmonizing data and methodologies as a prerequisite to establishing a baseline for global assessment.

25. Some Parties encouraged all country Parties to strengthen their institutional coordination at national level with the view of improving data accessibility.

---

<sup>2</sup> Representatives from United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations.



26. Some Parties and other stakeholders<sup>3</sup> recommended balancing costs of collecting data on delineation of affected areas versus evaluating costs and benefits of action versus inaction of making efforts to address desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD).
27. Some Parties recommended using readily available and internationally recognized datasets and building synergies with the other Rio conventions in order to reduce the costs of data collection. Conversely, some other Parties expressed concerns with the use of international data sources due to the risk of reducing the value of relevant information collected at national level.
28. Some Parties recommended that the AGTE continue working on the development of clear terminology, classifications and definitions for impact indicators. Some Parties also recommended working towards a better balance between quantitative and qualitative assessments/indicators. In this regard, some other Parties recommended that global institutions provide further methodological guidance for reporting on the two mandatory impact indicators (land cover status and proportion of the population living below the poverty line).
29. Some Parties recommended integrating global reporting with nationally relevant indicators and data. In this regard, some Parties and organizations recognized the importance of participatory processes in identifying locally relevant indicators.
30. Some Parties recommended the adoption of an indicator on soil organic carbon to measure progress against strategic objective 3 of The Strategy.
31. Many Parties recommended methodologically and technologically improving the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) portal, including reducing its complexity and increasing its user-friendliness.
32. Some Parties recommended that the PRAIS portal should be reorganized as well as the templates simplified in order to ensure appropriate report submission and evaluation of the information.
33. Some Parties encouraged the integration of the PRAIS portal into national environmental information systems.
34. Many Parties requested that development partners and financial institutions, particularly the Global Environment Facility, should consider extending further technical and financial assistance in developing the capacities of affected country Parties in reporting against impact indicators.
35. Some Parties recalled that setting realistic and achievable targets would be possible through a robust baseline assessment. Other Parties recommended also using global target setting as a powerful means to raise awareness and mobilize resources on DLDD issues.
36. Some Parties encouraged all country Parties to fully leverage synergies among the Rio conventions at national level, particularly with regard to their implementation instruments (national action programmes (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)).

---

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 2 above.

**B. Assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted performance indicators and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy**

**1. Operational objective 1 of The Strategy**

37. Some Parties expressed concerns with regard to the reliability and representativeness of information available on operational objective 1 (OO1), particularly the total percentage of populations informed, which seemed unexpectedly high.

38. Some Parties and other stakeholders stressed the need to strengthen their message on DLDD and sustainable land management by segmenting the various target groups in order to deliver the right message at the right time to the right place, with a view to ensuring it is relevant, compelling and personalized, and that it elicits the intended actions and responses. Target groups should range from grassroots communities to decision makers at national and international levels.

39. Some Parties expressed concerns with regard to the effectiveness of awareness-raising activities.

40. Many Parties emphasized the need for encouraging stakeholders to strengthen linkages with other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the media, private sector, local governments and national governments, in order to complement the awareness-raising activities undertaken by them.

41. Some Parties recommended that efforts on strengthening messages and linkages be streamlined into national communication strategies.

42. Some Parties recommended that the mid-term evaluation should consider revisiting the OO1 indicators in order to increase the scope for achieving more accurate results by using more effective and reliable tools for measuring awareness-raising efforts.

43. Some Parties recommended the use of mass media and information and communication technologies for outreach and to take into account the effectiveness of local and alternative media in reaching rural and urban population.

44. Many Parties spoke to the need for to exploring ways to easily communicate the term ‘desertification’ to the general public.

45. Some Parties recommended the need to integrate DLDD within the school curriculum on environment and natural resources, particularly at elementary and secondary levels and universities, and to ensure, where relevant, that capacity is built for teachers to implement the curriculum.

46. Some Parties suggested the need to set up a repository of information within the UNCCD on lessons learned in advocacy, awareness-raising and education, both positive and negative, to be shared among the stakeholders.

47. Some Parties expressed the need to raise not only the profile of DLDD, but also the profile of the Convention, through their awareness-raising activities.

48. Some Parties recommended that in order to streamline environmental and land degradation issues, there is a need to target capacity building for social communicators.

**2. Operational objectives 2 and 4 of The Strategy; and assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy**

49. Many Parties said that the national action plan is first and foremost a national instrument and that it is not an academic exercise or an end in itself. Affected country

Parties should use the national action programme (NAP) alignment process, including its added value and documented benefits, as a means to raise the awareness of policymakers.

50. Many Parties welcomed the funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for supporting NAP alignment. Many Parties, however, expressed concern with regard to the level and timeliness of funding in the alignment process.

51. Some Parties recalled the need for streamlining. The action programme should not cover all aspects of land management, but should instead address specific gaps while remaining coherent with other sectoral policies.

52. Many Parties noted that preliminary analyses of sustainable land management (SLM) options, including economic valuation, should be conducted. Priorities consistent with national development policies – particularly in agriculture, food security, natural resource management, climate change, biodiversity and poverty reduction, where applicable – should be set before the alignment process starts. Specific internal coordination mechanisms should be established, such as interministerial cooperation frameworks and steering committees, to drive the process and ensure coherence during implementation.

53. Some Parties noted that, taking the above paragraphs 49–52 into consideration, the secretariat should develop effective tools to guide the alignment process, which take into account the changing government priorities and the need for monitoring and independently evaluating the process at national and regional levels.

54. Many Parties recalled that the alignment process should be participatory and inclusive of all involved stakeholders, including those from the private sector and civil society, taking into account decentralization and local governance issues. Some Parties said that for larger countries, action programmes should be developed at subnational level.

55. Many Parties noted that the roles, differing concerns and shared responsibilities of private sector and grassroots organizations in the alignment process have been underlined by many Parties. Their engagement is essential in the alignment and implementation of national action programmes.

56. Some Parties recommended that NAPs be integrated into local development plans and rely on existing partnerships.

57. Many Parties stated that the Intersessional Working Group on the mid-term evaluation should pay particular attention to the alignment process and the review of relevant indicators

58. Many Parties requested that the secretariat should support the alignment of action programmes through awareness-raising and high-level political advocacy, which are key to an effective alignment process.

59. The linkage between building national capacities and obtaining future financial resources following NAP alignment has been stressed by many Parties. In this regard, some Parties recommended strengthening the role of academia (science and technology institutions) and civil society organizations.

60. Concerns about whether funding for NAP implementation will be available was raised by many Parties. Some Parties noted that NAP implementation should rely on a combination of national, bilateral and multilateral financing. Another Party said that affected country Parties should consider establishing economic incentives as well as consistent regulation and legislation.

61. Many Parties noted a need to facilitate direct access to financing, including GEF and climate financing, at local and national levels. In this regard, some Parties called for innovative approaches to private sector resource mobilization, including the establishment

of a fund in a private institution. To secure thematic financing, affected country Parties should develop specific projects that can be funded and that have a tangible impact on the ground.

62. Some Parties discussed the need to reduce impacts on natural resources by ensuring that unsustainable use does not lead to land degradation and that NAP alignment should fit into national development planning.

63. Many Parties recalled that capacity is a challenge and welcomed increased focus and research into resource needs for capacity-building, including in the context of integrated financing strategies. Other Parties called for subregional support and training.

64. Some Parties recalled that NAPs should provide decision support and include state-of-the-art tools in this regard, such as geo-referenced data. In this regard, mapping of the available and needed resources should be an integral part of the NAP.

65. Many Parties said that SLM monitoring should be integrated into existing national monitoring systems beyond the Convention. Monitoring systems should help in building capacity and providing inputs and technical support for decision-making (within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building).

### **3. Operational objective 3 of The Strategy**

66. Many Parties recommended increasing national ownership and leadership with regard to DLDD monitoring systems, investing in capacity-building and bridging the gap between monitoring needs at local level and those at national level in order to increase the long-term sustainability of these monitoring systems.

67. Some Parties recommended building upon the lessons learned by donor countries with regard to the obstacles and challenges encountered in supporting national environmental and DLDD monitoring initiatives.

68. Some Parties recommended that donors invest in DLDD monitoring systems to harmonize their interventions at national and local level in order to avoid duplication and improve investment synergies.

69. Some Parties recommended that donor countries continue supporting activities to combat DLDD at ground level, focusing on measurable actions for combating desertification that can be effectively monitored.

70. Some Parties recommended using ecosystem-based monitoring that integrates socioeconomic land degradation drivers as an effective DLDD monitoring approach.

71. Some Parties recommended the need to strengthen coordination and communication among the focal points of the Rio conventions in order to increase national ownership and efficiency in implementation

## **C. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, including strategic objectives 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy and the outcomes of the open dialogue session**

### **1. Strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5 of The Strategy; and financial commitments and investments related to the implementation of the Convention**

72. Some Parties welcomed the results from the analysis of financial flows, including on strategic objective 4, on the increase of the number of countries having established an integrated investment framework (IIF), and on the increase of commitments directly targeting the objectives of the UNCCD. They also urged to continue refining reporting tools

as well as the preliminary analysis and to reflect on how to speed up the progress on the establishment of IIF.

73. In this regard, some Parties urged Convention institutions to define more specific indicators with the objective of obtaining reliable data to assess the dynamics of the process and to help compile multi-source data.

74. Many Parties noted that the lack of financial resources remains the major constraint in the implementation of the Convention.

75. Some Parties called for clear guidelines on the Convention's financial mechanisms, which would assist affected countries in leveraging the resources required. Other Parties called for an information monitoring system to assist in identifying financing opportunities for, inter alia, multi-sectoral projects.

76. Many Parties noted the central role of domestic finance. In this regard, some Parties provided some examples of established environmental funds which are already supporting integrated sustainable environmental management.

77. Many Parties highlighted the significant human and financial resources required for reporting, including reporting on financial commitments and relevant indicators. Some Parties noted the limited support received during the last reporting exercise, and that the failure to report by many Parties reflects a lack of capacity and insufficient funding.

78. Many Parties recalled the link between having aligned NAPs and effective reporting. In this regard, some Parties noted that the limited number of countries reporting could also be due to the limited number of countries with aligned NAPs.

79. Many Parties urged developed country Parties, the GEF and the Global Mechanism (GM) to increase their financial contributions to enable affected country Parties to improve their reporting systems and increase their understanding and use of the impact indicators.

80. Many Parties recognized that the GEF funding process for enabling activities is too lengthy and complex and should be improved. In this regard, many Parties called upon the GEF to assess and improve its internal processes in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds to eligible countries, and called upon Convention institutions to facilitate access to such funding by communicating to implementing agencies efficiently and in a timely manner to ensure they are aware of the financial needs of the UNCCD process.

81. Some Parties requested the Convention institutions to explore new financial mechanisms to enable countries to meet their reporting requirements.

82. Many Parties also called upon the GEF to secure additional resources and facilitate access under the sixth replenishment of the GEF.

83. Many Parties emphasized the importance of building the capacity required in resource mobilization and in this connection asked the GEF, the GM and other partners to increase their efforts.

84. Some Parties recommended that NAPs aligned with The Strategy should be given priority in the allocation of resources, and requested the GM to facilitate resource mobilization for initiatives included in the NAPs.

85. Some Parties were of the opinion that the GM should mobilize adequate resources to discharge its mandate, including from innovative sources of funding. Some other Parties requested that the recommendations originating from the internal assessments of the GM be taken into account in its future work on integrated financing strategies (IFSS) and IIFs.

86. Many Parties recommended that efforts be focused on implementing decisions related to institutional arrangements in order to make the GM operational as soon as possible.

87. Many Parties highlighted the importance of involving private financing in the implementation of the Convention. Political will, incentives, compelling economic arguments, public–private partnerships and triangular cooperation partnerships are some of the issues that shall be considered to create an enabling environment for private sector and emerging funders to engage in investments conducive to SLM. At the same time, some Parties highlighted the need to set conditions to avoid negative externalities.

88. Some Parties recommended that the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy should pay particular attention to the assessment and evaluation of the subsidiary bodies and the institutions of the Convention, with a view to making the Convention processes more dynamic and effective. Some other Parties requested to assess the financial implications of implementing The Strategy.

89. The Group of Latin America and the Caribbean pointed out the need of hiring its GM official for the region in order to restart the processes of mobilization of resources and support to the countries.

90. Many Parties pointed out their concern about the analyses contained in the official documentation due to the relatively low number of reports submitted.

**2. Outcomes of the open dialogue session on the role of the civil society organizations in the mobilization of financial resources to support the implementation of the UNCCD through building effective partnerships between national and international actors**

91. Many Parties and other stakeholders<sup>4</sup> recognized the major role played by the CSOs in the implementation of the UNCCD at all levels, including their involvement in raising awareness on DLDD and education;

92. Many Parties recommended involving CSOs in the national coordinating bodies, noting that these mechanisms are established as multi-stakeholders platforms with the participation of governmental entities, CSOs and other partners and in some cases they could facilitate synergistic approaches with other environmental conventions.

93. Some Parties and CSOs expressed the need to build capacity among the CSOs, particularly with regard to resource mobilization and access to funds, including the GEF (for medium-sized projects).

94. Some Parties called for the GM, the GEF and other donors to provide funds for CSOs to implement projects at national level.

95. Many Parties indicated that CSOs are already engaging the private sector to mobilize resources. In this regard, they could help bridge the gap between governmental entities and the private sector. Some Parties recommended that CSOs could share their knowledge and success stories with regard to the private sector with the national authorities

96. Many Parties stressed the important role of CSOs in linking local communities and other relevant stakeholders with policymakers.

97. Some Parties indicated the importance of building South–South and North–South partnerships among the CSOs.

---

<sup>4</sup> Representatives from United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations.

98. Many Parties expressed concern with the low number of CSOs attending CRIC 11, and recommended looking into ways of ensuring increased participation of civil society actors at UNCCD meetings.

99. Many Parties encouraged country Parties to consolidate alliances with the CSOs and to facilitate close collaboration between their national focal point and civil society playing a supplementary role.

100. Many Parties stressed the need to involve CSOs in the reporting process, where they could support the national focal point by providing and verifying the information on the performance indicators. Some countries noted that, it may be necessary to develop capacities in some organizations.

101. Some parties noted that work needs to be done to facilitate CSO involvement in the reporting process, for instance by adapting templates for the PRAIS portal.

102. Some Parties and the CSOs expressed concern with the low number of CSOs accredited to the COP (following the implementation of decision 5/COP.10) and stressed the need to encourage additional CSOs to obtain observer status to the COP.

103. Some Parties expressed concern with the mechanisms established by decision 5/COP.10, which limit representation in the CSO selection panel to accredited organizations from the five Regional Implementation Annexes. They proposed that representatives from CSOs in the regional and interest groups should comprise the panel instead to ensure a more balanced and equitable representation.

104. Some Parties mentioned that CSO networks are important partners at national and regional level, and others expressed the need to have a strong global CSO network working on DLDD.

105. Some Parties and other stakeholders<sup>5</sup> mentioned the possibilities for CSOs to access to innovative sources of funding, such as the carbon market or climate funds.

106. Some Parties expressed the need to further strengthen the communications between the CSOs and Convention institutions.

## **D. Consideration of best practices**

### **1. Identification of recommended databases and institutions**

107. Many Parties welcomed the interest expressed by the institutions responding to the call for expression on best practices. Some Parties requested more information on the work and achievements of these institutions, particularly with regard to the database of best practices on SLM technologies, including adaptation.

108. While some Parties expressed concern for the multitude and fragmentation of similar available services, other Parties recommended that information on SLM best practices be consolidated and made available in a centralized best practice repository or through a data sharing initiative to prevent duplication and enable comparisons between countries. In this regard, many Parties called for an integrated approach by leveraging synergies and cooperation among the institutions participating in the call.

109. Some Parties noted the need to tailor best practices to local contexts and needs, and recommended that best practices should be reviewed by experts as well as local communities and end users in order to validate that these submissions are indeed best practices, particularly in local contexts.

---

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 4 above.

110. Some Parties emphasized the importance of documenting how effectively best practices are being used and recommended that the implementation of SLM best practices in the field should be monitored. This information should be included in the database in order to increase its effectiveness.

111. Many Parties noted the importance of making best practices available to end users and recommended that appropriate multilingual communication tools should be used.

112. Some Parties expressed concern with regard to the failure to link best practices with land potential and local capacities and knowledge, and recommended that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) should be invited to conduct a review of strategies to address this issue.

**2. Accessibility of information**

113. Some Parties expressed concern toward the confidentiality of data entered and highlighted the need to utilize intellectual property provisions to protect innovations submitted as best practices.

114. Many Parties recognized that making data reported through the PRAIS portal publically available and easily accessible would bring many benefits. These include opportunities to connect with other environmental processes and forums, raise awareness and advocate SLM approaches. In this regard, many Parties welcomed the identification of elements in a data access policy and requested the secretariat to continue looking at the practices and policies of other conventions, and multilateral bodies.

**E. Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, including input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

**1. Consideration of the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures**

115. Many Parties requested the CST and the CRIC to look further into refining the indicators, paying particular attention to the e-SMART (economic – Specific – Measurable – Achievable – Relevant –Time-bound) criteria, and to simplify the reporting templates in order to reduce the overall reporting burden on Parties and other reporting entities.

116. Many Parties recommended further engagement in the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy as an opportunity to rectify difficulties encountered in operationalizing The Strategy and reporting on its implementation, including the relevance of indicators, the frequency of reporting and the effectiveness of the review process.

117. Some Parties recommended improving the current format of the report so they can be used as effective tools for communication, awareness-raising and advocacy at national and international level.

118. Some Parties requested the reporting period to be longer and for the amendment of the frequency of reporting in order to better respond to the reporting requirements, reporting cycles and indicator sensitivity.

119. Some Parties recommended further improving the PRAIS portal in order to address some technical issues that occurred during the current reporting exercise, increase the user-friendliness of the platform and language accessibility.



120. Some Parties recommended exploring mechanisms and procedures to review information contained in the reports prior to the review by the CRIC, similar to practices established under other environmental conventions.

121. Some Parties recommended the establishment of national information systems to enhance national monitoring and appropriate reporting.

122. Some Parties recommended developing special sections within the PRAIS portal to report on supplementary indicators and/or specific actions taken by countries to combat DLDD.

**2. Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the refinement of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

123. Some Parties recommended increasing the efficiency of the reporting process by using internationally available data sources to pre-fill national reports on impact indicators, shifting the focus from data acquisition to data interpretation. These would effectively become default indicators that the Parties could accept, reject, or replace with indicators based on their own data sources.

124. Some Parties recommended that affected country Parties direct their efforts towards using and integrating locally generated impact indicators in their NAPs.

125. Some Parties recommended developing further guidance on how to use already established and internationally recognized land cover classification systems for reporting purposes.

126. Some Parties took note of the progress report from the AGTE and recommendations contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/14.

**F. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies**

**Proposed standard approach and process in elaborating advocacy policy frameworks; and proposed advocacy policy framework on the issue of drought and water scarcity**

127. Many Parties stressed the importance of consolidating efforts to mitigate the effects of drought, especially with regard to food security, and recommended that the secretariat and bodies of the UNCCD strengthen the science–policy interface with a focus on drought (including water scarcity).

128. Some Parties emphasized the importance of integrating the advocacy policy framework (APF) on drought (including water scarcity) into ongoing international efforts by United Nations agencies, as recognized in a wide range of global agreements and forums.

129. Some Parties recognized the relevance of the outcome of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP), jointly organized by the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the secretariat of the UNCCD.

130. Many Parties called upon development partners, the GEF, international and regional development banks, and other financial institutions to assist the secretariat and Convention process by providing additional adequate, accessible and timely resources to implement the advocacy policy framework on drought (including water scarcity).

131. Many Parties recommended that the COP approve the APF on drought (including water scarcity). Several countries mentioned the need to address the effects of drought, especially at national level.

132. Many Parties acknowledged the importance of developing national drought management policies (NDMPs) and mainstreaming these in existing plans and mechanisms, especially NAPs.

133. Some Parties recommended the need of improving and/or developing early warning systems to monitor drought and share information to stakeholders and farmers.

134. Some Parties promoted the idea of developing NDMPs, mainstreaming drought policy in NAPs and subregional action programmes as a primary tool for implementing such policies, and documenting experiences for future reporting cycles.

135. Some Parties raised the need to integrate drought preparedness schemes into broader SLM, for example resource management and water/watershed management approaches.

136. Some Parties expressed the need to increase investment in a range of SLM actions in degraded lands in order to help local food producers to better adapt to drought.

137. Many Parties advocated the idea of developing and strengthening existing networks on land management to support information sharing, coordination and partnership-building on drought and water scarcity issues at community level.

138. Many Parties called for strengthening capacity-building programmes on drought management and building partnerships, targeting local community and grassroots organizations. Some other Parties recommended establishing a capacity-building scheme on gender and providing sufficient funding to implement these schemes at national level.

139. Some Parties recommended the inclusion of gender into the design of drought and land degradation policies.

140. Many Parties underlined the need of putting policies and mechanisms in place to address disaster risk management related to drought.

141. Many Parties stated that synergies between conventions should be encouraged at the national level, but that, at the global level, multilateral environmental agreements should keep their independence.

142. Some Parties expressed concern that adding areas for exploration could distract Parties from the main focus of fostering implementation of the Convention on the ground and increase costs.

143. Some Parties encouraged the UNCCD and its member States to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the newly-established IPBES and noted the deadline of 5 May 2013 to submit a request to the Panel.

#### **IV. Actions taken by the Committee on agenda items 11 and 12**

144. The Parties took note of the documentation prepared by the secretariat with regard to agenda item 11 (Progress made in the implementation of decision 6/COP.10) and agenda item 12 (Review of information regarding the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy).

## **V. Conclusion of the session**

### **A. Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including conclusions and recommendations**

145. At its tenth meeting on 19 April 2013, the Committee considered the draft report on its eleventh session.

146. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Norway, South Africa, Swaziland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

147. The Committee then approved the draft report as a whole, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur to finalize it in consultation with the Bureau and the secretariat.

### **B. Closure of the session**

148. Also, at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Argentina (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Japan, Belarus (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe), Burkina Faso (on behalf of the Group of African States), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Group of Asian States), and the Republic of Korea.

149. A statement was also made by a representative of the non-governmental organization Environnement et développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM), on behalf of civil society organizations.

150. Closing remarks were made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

151. The Chair made concluding remarks and declared closed the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

## Annex

## Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its eleventh session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(11)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/2	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 1 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/3	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 2 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/3/Corr.1	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 2 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(11)/4	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 3 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/5	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 4 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/6	Assessment of the alignment of action programmes and their implementation in accordance with The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/7	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from subregional and regional reporting entities. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/8- ICCD/CST(S-3)/6	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected country Parties on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/8/Corr.1- ICCD/CST(S-3)/6/Corr.1	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected country Parties on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/CRIC(11)/9	Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the review and assessment of scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(11)/10	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on strategic objective 4 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/11	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility, as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, on operational objective 5 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/12	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as the Global Mechanism, on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/13	Consideration of best practices: accessibility of information on best practices. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/13/Add.1	Consideration of best practices: accessibility of information on best practices. Addendum. Roster of institutions and organizations interested in supporting the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in the compilation and dissemination of best practices in the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/14	Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on how best to measure strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/15	Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/16	Proposed draft standard approach and process for for the formulation of an advocacy policy frameworks. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/17	Advocacy policy framework on the thematic issue of drought, including water scarcity. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/18	Progress made in the implementation of decision 6/COP.10. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-3)/INF.1- ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.1	Information for participants. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.2	Mid-term evaluation of The Strategy: Update on the process. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.3	Glossary for performance and impact indicators, financial flows and best practices. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.4	Status report on the 2012–2013 reporting and review process. Note by the secretariat

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.5	Concept note for an action plan for 2012–2018 for promoting and strengthening relations with organizations, institutions and agencies in implementing recommendations emanating from the United Nations Environment Management Group: Global Drylands: a United Nations system-wide response. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.6	Outcomes and recommendations of the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy
ICCD/CRIC(11)/INF.7/Rev.1	List of participants
ICCD/CRIC(11)/MISC.1	Guidelines for the implementation of a data quality framework for the UNCCD process. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/MISC.2	Survey on challenges and constraints faced during the 2012–2013 reporting and review process by Parties that could not submit their national report by 30 October 2012. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/MISC.3	Provisional list of participants
ICCD/CRIC(11)/CRP.1	Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. Information on progress made in implementing paragraph 11 (c) of decision 9/COP.10 on any other emerging issues and strategic approaches that require an advocacy policy framework

---